

MOUNTAIN GOAT ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.: W-27-4

PROJECT NR.: 12.0

WORK LOCATION: Statewide

Project Locations: Game Management Regions 1 and 2

PERIOD: 1 July 2000–30 June 2001

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Alaska Mountain Goats and Factors Influencing Their Populations

The Status of Alaska Mountain Goats and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region I

Regionwide Activities

Write an annual survey and inventory performance report. This draft satisfies the activity as described.

Provide information to the Board of Game on mountain goat management. During fall 2000 Region I staff provided information to the Board on goat population and harvest trends. The Board expanded the season for the Chilkat Range hunt.

Unit 1

Unit 1A

Conduct population size and composition trend counts. The Ketchikan Area Biologist conducted 6 aerial surveys in established trend count areas, enumerating 418 goats.

Monitor results from the registration permit hunt and analyze the data. Staff in the Ketchikan area office collected hunt-based information through use of registration permit reports and analyzed the data. A total of 24 goats were killed in Unit 1A.

Unit 1B

Conduct population size and composition trend counts. No aerial surveys were conducted during the regulatory year.

Monitor results from the registration permit hunt and analyze the data. Staff in the Petersburg area office collected hunt-based information through use of

registration permit reports and analyzed the data. A total of 27 goats were killed in Unit 1B.

Unit 1C

Conduct population size and composition trend counts. The Douglas Area and Assistant Area Biologists conducted 5 aerial surveys in established trend count areas. A total of 428 goats were counted.

Monitor results from the registration permit hunt and analyze the data. Staff in the Douglas area office collected hunt-based information through use of registration permit reports and analyzed the data. About 45 goats were harvested in the unit.

Monitor, as information becomes available while talking to people traveling in goat habitat, the impact of sightseeing helicopter flights on selected populations. Douglas Area and regional staff not only spoke with helicopter-borne travelers and helicopter operators about this issue, they spoke with USFS land managers as well. Future studies on the issue are planned.

Monitor, as information becomes available the course of contagious ecthyma (ORF) in northern southeast populations in case we want to develop a separate research study. These observations are not part of a separate current research study (Study 18.71) that is examining wildlife diseases from a statewide perspective. Staff queried goat hunters and big game guides about any evidence of ORF observed in the field.

Unit 1D

Conduct population size and composition trend counts. The Douglas Area and Assistant Area Biologists did not conduct aerial surveys in the unit.

Monitor results from the registration permit hunt and analyze the data. Staff in the Douglas area office collected hunt-based information through use of registration permit reports and analyzed the data. About 25 goats were harvested in the unit.

Unit 4

Conduct population size and composition trend counts. The Sitka Area Biologist conducted aerial surveys in 2 established trend count areas.

Monitor results from the registration permit hunt and analyze the data. Staff in the Sitka area office collected hunt-based information through use of registration permit reports and analyzed the data.

Unit 5

Conduct population size and composition trend counts. The Douglas Area Biologist did not conduct aerial surveys in the unit.

Monitor results from the registration permit hunt and analyze the data. Staff in the Douglas area office collected hunt-based information through use of registration permit reports and analyzed the data.

Work on developing population objectives. The Douglas Area and Assistant Area Biologists made some progress evaluating population objectives for mountain goats in Unit 5.

Regional Segment Period Project Costs: \$53.1

The Status of Alaska Mountain Goats and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region II

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Conduct summer aerial sex and age population composition surveys to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality.

Surveys were conducted in all mountain goat ranges in Region 2 during this reporting period

Activity 2: Monitor the goat harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

Registration and drawing permit results were tabulated and are presented.

Activity 3: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

Activity 4: Draft a mountain goat management report.

The next draft mountain goat management report will be completed during spring 2002.

Activity 5: Provide information to the Board of Game on mountain goat management.

Region 2 mountain goat regulations were addressed during the spring 2001 Board of Game meeting.

ACTIVITIES BY UNIT

Unit 6

Activity 1: Conduct summer aerial sex and age population composition surveys to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality.

ADF&G and the U.S. Forest Service Cordova Ranger District conducted surveys in 6 of 16 active hunt areas during August and September 2000. Estimated number of goats in Unit 6 was 3650 with 18% kids.

Activity 2: Monitor the goat harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

Hunters killed 68 goats including 46 males, 19 females and 3 unrecovered for a total of 89 goat units. Total allowable harvest was 129 goat units.

Units 7 and 15

Activity 1: Conduct summer aerial sex and age population composition surveys to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality.

Table 1 Kenai Peninsula mountain goat surveys, 2000.

Area	Date	Adults	Kid	Total	Kid/100 Adult	% Kids
331	9/20/00	35	4	39	11	10.3
332	8/17/00	50	9	59	18	15.3
333	8/26/00	78	10	88	13	11.4
334	8/16/00	84	17	101	20	16.8
335	7/26/00	65	10	75	15	13.3
337	7/25/00	13	2	15	15	13.3
340	8/26/00	38	7	45	18	15.6
342	8/6/00	84	15	99	18	15.2
343	8/5/00	86	18	104	21	17.3
345	8/31/00	85	23	108	27	21.3
Round Mount ain	7/25/00	0	0	0		
Area	Date	Adults	Kid	Total	Kid/100 Adult	% Kids
353	7/25/00	0	0	0		
358	8/10,17/00	30	6	36	20	16.7
361	7/27/00	66	13	79	20	16.5
364	7/25/00	41	3	44	7	7

Activity 2: Monitor the goat harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

Table 2. Kenai Peninsula mountain goat drawing permit hunt summary, 2000.

Hunt area	Permits issued	Number of hunters	Percent success	Harvest			Total
				Male	Female	Unknown	
DG331	3	2	0%	0	0	0	0
DG332	4	4	50%	1	1	0	2
DG333	25	14	21%	2	1	0	3
DG334	10	9	33%	2	1	0	3
DG335	3	1	100%	1	0	0	1
DG336	30	11	0%	0	0	0	0
DG339	25	20	50%	5	5	0	10
DG340	20	5	20%	0	1	0	1
DG341	6	3	100%	2	1	0	3
DG342	12	10	50%	4	1	0	5
DG343	8	7	14%	1	0	0	1
DG344	12	8	38%	2	1	0	3
DG345	40	19	21%	2	2	0	4
DG346	30	18	39%	6	1	0	7
DG347	20	9	33%	3	0	0	3
DG351	5	1	0%	0	0	0	0
DG352	25	13	62%	4	4	0	8
Unit 7	278	154	35%	35	19	0	54
DG354	8	3	0%	0	0	0	0
DG355	4	2	50%	0	1	0	1
DG356	5	2	50%	0	1	0	1
DG357	10	5	40%	2	0	0	2
DG358	12	4	50%	1	1	0	2
DG359	10	2	50%	1	0	0	1
DG360	30	17	35%	2	4	0	6
DG361	20	11	36%	1	3	0	4
DG362	22	17	41%	5	2	0	7
DG363	30	16	25%	2	2	0	4
Unit 15	151	79	35%	14	14	0	28
Totals	429	233	35%	49	33	0	82

Season Dates: 10 August–30 September.

Table 3. Kenai Peninsula mountain goat registration permit hunt summary, 2000.

Hunt area	Permits issued	Number		Percent success	Harvest			Total
		of hunters			Male	Female	Unknown	
RG331	19	7		29%	1	0	1	2
RG334	48	24		8%	2	0	0	2
RG335	54	26		4%	1	0	0	1
RG336	65	26		0%	0	0	0	0
RG343	79	40		25%	3	6	1	10
RG347	33	18		39%	5	2	0	7
Unit 7	298	141		16%	12	8	2	22
RG354	18	8		0%	0	0	0	0
RG363	15	1		0%	0	0	0	0
RG365	11	10		20%	1	1	0	2
Unit 15	44	19		11%	1	1	0	2
Totals	342	160		15%	13	9	2	24

General Registration Season Dates: 15 October - 30 November.

Hunt areas RG343 and RG347 closed by emergency order October 20, 2000.

Hunt areas RG334 and RG365 closed by emergency order November 1, 2000.

Hunt areas RG331 and RG334 were Archery Only hunts

Table 4. Kenai Peninsula mountain goat Tier II permit hunt summary, 2000.

Hunt area	Permits issued	Number		Percent success	Harvest			Total
		of hunters			Male	Female	Unknown	
TG364	16	6		0%	0	0	0	0
TG365	30	14		36%	5	0	0	5
Totals	46	20		25%	5	0	0	5

Season Dates: 1 August - 30 September.

Activity 3: Provide information to the Board of Game on mountain goat management.

The Board of Game met in March 2001 to review proposals to change goat hunting regulations on the Kenai peninsula. The Board authorized a change to all the fall seasons and prohibited the taking of nannies accompanied by kids. They rejected two proposals to close a portion of Kachemak Bay to mountain goat hunting. These changes will become effective in 2001.

Unit 8

Activity 1: Conduct summer aerial sex and age population composition surveys to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality.

Summer surveys were flown in selected goat habitat of Kodiak Island; 612 goats were counted (533 adults, 79 kids). This was a kid:adult ratio of 15:100. This kid:adult ratio was lower than the average ratio noted during the previous 5 years (19:100). About 60% of the goat habitat on the island was surveyed. The islandwide goat population continued to be stable in 2000, with localized declines and increases.

Activity 2: Monitor the goat harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

Preliminary data indicate that hunters reported taking 54 goats (34 males, 20 females), down from the 1999 harvest of 64, but still above the 5 year average of 62 goats. We issued 161 drawing permits, 91 hunters went into the field, and hunter success was 59%. The harvest ranged from 2-10 goats from each of the 8 permit hunts.

Goat populations now occupy virtually all available habitat around Kodiak Island in sufficient numbers to allow expansion of hunt areas and permit numbers. In 2001/02 we will create one new hunt area (north road system), expand 6 areas, and increase permit numbers in 5 areas. Goat numbers in northwestern Kodiak continue to decrease, so we will decrease the number of permits in hunt DG473 (Hidden Basin/Terror Bay) from 15 to 10.

Activity 1: Conduct summer aerial sex and age population surveys on established trend count areas to determine status, trend, and productivity.

Unit 11 Count areas 11, 12, 22 and 23 June/July 2001
163 adults 25(15%) kids.

Unit 13 Count areas 1-5
121 adults 28 (23%) kids.

Activity 2: Monitor the goat harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

Preliminary harvest:

Unit 11
6 goats (100% males)
average number days hunted = 6.5

Unit 13
4 goats (75% males)
average number days hunted = 4.9

Unit 14

Activity 1: Conduct summer aerial sex and age population composition surveys to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality.

Surveys flown in Unit 14C (Lake George, Bird/Glacier, and incidental to sheep surveys):

Adults/yearlings 487 Kids 78 (14%) Total 565

Activity 2: Monitor the goat harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

The preliminary Unit 14 harvest was:

Males 23 Females 9 Total 32

Activity 3: Provide information to the Board of Game on mountain goat management.

Board of Game met in March 2001 and discussed 5 goat hunting proposals specific to Unit 14. Three proposals passed.

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project:

None

Statewide Segment Period Project Costs:

2000– 2001	I	II	III	V	Total
Actual	53.1	48.4			101.5